

REMARKS

Claims 1-21, 29 and 31-36 were pending in the present application. Claims 3 and 11 have been canceled herein. Accordingly, claims 1-2, 4-10, 12-21, 29 and 31-36 are currently pending.

Applicant submits that claims 1-2, 4-10, 12-21, 29 and 31-36 are clearly in condition for allowance, as will be discussed herein below. The accompanying remarks are necessary and were not presented earlier because the new prior art and arguments presented by the Examiner in the final rejection do not adequately address the amendments made by Applicant in the amendment dated January 2, 2004. In particular, the new art cited by the Examiner does not overcome the deficiencies of the previously cited prior art, which Applicant has shown clearly does not teach or suggest all of the limitations of the pending claims. In this response Applicant clarifies distinguishing limitations of the claimed invention over Examiner's newly cited prior art and new grounds of rejection.

Applicant has canceled dependent claims 3 and 11 as being overly redundant with their respective independent claims 1 and 9, and not for reasons related to patentability.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9-12, 18, 20, 21, 29, 31, 33 and 35 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,538,319 to Terui ("Terui") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,448,640 to Corisis ("Corisis"). The Examiner rejected claims 5 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Terui in view of Corisis, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,075,710 to Lau ("Lau"). The Examiner rejected claims 8, 13-16 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Terui in view of Corisis, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,150,193 to Glenn ("Glenn"). Finally, the Examiner rejected claims 32, 34 and 36 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Terui in view of Corisis, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,168,974 to Chang, et al. ("Chang").

In the amendment dated January 2, 2004, Applicant explained that the previously cited references, Terui, Lau and Glenn, do not teach or suggest a trace "connected to [a] conductive ring and surrounding a selected one of the plurality of contacts," as required by all pending claims. The Examiner apparently agreed, and in the current office action

cites a new reference, Corisis, as allegedly disclosing this limitation. Specifically, the Examiner states on page 2 of the current office action that "Corisis (figures 1-7) teach the trace (200) surrounds one of the plurality of contact pad (24)." Applicant strenuously traverses.


Corisis does not show any traces surrounding a contact. All traces of Corisis are either open-ended, and therefore cannot surround a contact, or they are close-ended (such as trace 200), but do not contain any contacts within the loop. In fact, Corisis explains that a ball pad can be only "partially surrounded" or "bordered proximate" by a trace (Corisis, col. 6, ll. 25-41), but Corisis never states that a trace could surround a ball pad. This is because the device of Corisis cannot be modified to make a trace surround a ball pad without rendering the device inoperable. Each ball pad 24 of Corisis is connected to a bond wire pad 40 that is adjacent slot 38. Thus a trace cannot surround a ball pad because it would break or short the ball pad's connection to its respective bond wire pad.

Accordingly, the cited prior art, even if combined, does not disclose all of the limitations of the pending claims, and Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections be withdrawn.

In light of the amendments and remarks above, Applicant respectfully submits that this response complies with 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 and should therefore be entered. Applicant further submits that the application is now in condition for allowance and requests that Examiner pass the case to issuance. If the Examiner should have any questions regarding this application, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact Jim Brady at 972-917-4371.

Respectfully submitted,

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